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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/127 of 18 December 1992 on the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights, emphasized that, in reviewing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, adequate staffing, temporary assistance and other resources should be allocated to the Centre so as to enable it to respond to its increasing workload and to cover its needs in order to carry out all functions assigned to it, including the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights as well as the Conference itself.

2. In addition, it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources were accorded to the Centre to enable it to carry out, in full and on time, all the mandates, including the additional ones, resulting from the decisions of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and to submit an interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session and a final report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights and on the measures taken to implement that resolution. The present report is issued in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/127.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

3. Based on the Secretary-General's proposals, the General Assembly approved an increase in the regular budget of the Centre for 1992-1993. In addition, it approved certain redeployments and additional posts. A post had been established at the D-2 level of Director of the Centre for Human Rights, with responsibility for guiding the day-to-day activities of the Centre and overseeing the implementation of all its programme of work. A Director was appointed to this post and took up his functions as of 12 August 1992. Effective as of 1 January 1993, the Director of the Centre was appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. The D-2 post shall be retained in the Centre.

4. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on this subject (A/47/702), in order to strengthen the handling of communications (complaints, petitions, appeals) under the procedures established in Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the General Assembly decided to approve two posts at the Professional level (one P-4 and one P-3) and two General Service temporary posts.

5. Likewise, to address the increased workload of the Special Procedures Section relating to various recurrent activities under mandates of the Economic and Social Council, a total of four temporary Professional posts (two P-4 and two P-3) and four General Service temporary posts have been approved through the conversion of the Centre's general temporary assistance funds, with a corresponding decrease in the latter. It is the intention of the General Assembly to examine proposals for the establishment of all these posts on a permanent basis no later than at the time of consideration of the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995.

6. In respect of treaty bodies, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/111 of 17 December 1991, requested the Secretary-General to review the need for adequate staffing resources in regard to the various treaty bodies and to report thereon to the Commission at its forty-eighth session and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

7. In his report to the General Assembly (A/46/603), the Secretary-General elaborated on the substantial increase in the workload of the Centre in this area of activities, which has resulted from the doubling of the number of treaty monitoring bodies being serviced by the Centre and a cumulative increase in the number of States parties to the various international human rights instruments (from 385 to 602). The total number of States parties has since risen to 652.

8. The establishment of two Professional (one P-4 and one P-3) and two General Service posts has been approved as from 1993 in the light of the expectation that the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families will enter into force during the biennium. Since the Convention has not yet entered into force, two Professional and two General Service posts established for these activities have been used temporarily for the strengthening of the Centre. Although two additional Professional posts and one General Service post were approved as from 1991 in connection with the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, further strengthening of the Centre

with respect to support for the activities of the treaty monitoring bodies is required, in view of the rapidly increasing number of States parties to the Convention and the anticipated workload of the Committee established thereunder.

9. In addition, in the course of 1992, as a result of additional mandates given to the Centre for Human Rights by the Commission on Human Rights and the increased utilization of the existing mandates by the various rapporteurs or experts, 11 additional posts were authorized by the Secretary-General, for an initial period of 6 months. Additional resources were also estimated as being essential to carry out all mandated activities for 1992 and 1993. These resources were requested in the context of the revised estimates presented to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/C.5/47/71). In its resolution 47/219, part XVI, the General Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General on the understanding that, with regard to his request for $760,000, the Secretary-General would implement, within the overall level of the revised appropriation for 1992-1993, the other activities of the Centre for Human Rights, for which he has requested additional resources and would report to the General Assembly through the final budget performance report for 1992-1993.

10. Furthermore, in connection with the appointment by the Commission on Human Rights at its first special session in August 1992 of a special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of former Yugoslavia, five Professional posts were redeployed to the Centre at the end of September 1992 for an initial period of six months. Additional resources amounting to $890,000 were approved for activities related to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

11. These additional human and financial resources were granted in order to ensure, as requested in General Assembly resolution 47/127 that sufficient resources were accorded to the Centre for Human Rights (see para. 2 above). Moreover, it should be recalled that in response to concerns about the reduction in general temporary assistance funds as a result of the conversion of posts, the General Assembly in its resolution 46/185 C also requested the Secretary-General, with regard to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the level of general temporary assistance for section 28, to ensure that adequate resources were available during the biennium 1992-1993.

12. The General Assembly also approved an appropriation of $1,837,000 for the biennium in connection with the Centre's preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993, of which $1,466,000 was appropriated under section 28 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.